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Deputy Chief, Industrial Division

THRU : Chief, Manufacturing Sectors Branch

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Review and Comments on Draft of OSR Project 20.1776, Long Term Trends in Supplies and Costs of Metals, Fuels, and Electric Power, USSR

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Basically this report is still in an unfinished condition. [redacted] tells us that the report is made up of contributions from various branches in D/M and has been "in the works" for over two years. Basically the report is a good idea, being a consolidated survey of certain trends in the materials and energy sector of the Soviet economy. The projection of these trends to 1965 was made in support of the NIE program, I am told. There is a great deal of valuable data conveniently brought together in the report, but the report is still in extremely rough condition.

One of the worst faults is repetition. Under each of the various subheadings the same general statements are repeated in support of the discussion. I dare say that the report could be condensed from the present 250 pages to 125 pages without the loss of any substantive information. In my comments I have not touched on matters of form, style, grammar, clarity or even internal consistency and, aside from appropriate substantive comments, have noted only the more obvious typographical errors. Some pertinent data have never been entered in the blank spaces provided for them in the text and about six pages are missing. Some statements in the report are extremely vague, some contradictory, and some unsubstantiated. Since the title of the report includes the word "trends" I suppose such writing is inevitable. I do not think that combining the subjects of "supplies" and "costs" within this survey was too successful. The section on cost is particularly weak and unconvincing, consisting largely of self-evident generalities. But then cost in the USSR is a difficult subject to write on and apparently little time and attention have been devoted to interpreting such cost data as are available.

In its present form the report devotes little attention to machinery and equipment specifically as a factor in planning increases of capacity and production and decreases in cost, being essentially oriented toward the problems of construction, location, and general technological methods and processes in the materials and energy industries. As a result, there are relatively few comments to be made by us on the present text and the limited time allotted me to review

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the report did not permit the addition of information. In general, the D/I commodity analysts are in agreement with the conclusions presented in this report concerning specific types of machinery and equipment. Detailed comments on passages susceptible to coordination are attached.

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